



In this issue



Volunteer recruiters begin push to bring new employees into ranks.

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“Expecting Excellence Every Day”

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MDOC Travel Team at Spartan Stadium

Members of the 2002 MDOC Travel Team kicked off the Torch Run in East Lansing recently. From left, standing, Shawn Young, Vicki Siegreist, David Katz and Maggie Young. Kneeling, from left: Steve Ostrovich and Steve Siegrist. See story, more pictures beginning on page 8.

Officer, agents heroes in near-drowning

Here's a story with plenty of heroes to go around.

Parole agents from the Macomb County parole and CRP tether office in Mt. Clemens dived into the Clinton River last week (Sept. 17) to pull out a corrections officer and the prisoner he had been trying to save.

The agents – Lawrence Mytinger, Mark Goricki and Martin Awe – went to the assistance of Corrections Officer Robert Young who was trying to pull out a prisoner who had jumped into the river and become caught on a tree branch. The officer got stuck, too, and both were in danger of drowning when the agents jumped in.

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Heroes

Staff from the Macomb County Parole and Tether Office dived into the Clinton River last week. One to save a prisoner who had jumped while trying to flee and the others to help the officer and prisoner who had become tangled in tree limbs and muck. From left: Lawrence Mytinger, Martin Awe, Robert Young and Mark Goricki.

Heroes: Officer, agents save lives

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The agents were able to pull both Young and the prisoner he was holding onto out of the water. Mytinger resuscitated the prisoner who had been submerged for three to five minutes before staff members were able to get him out of the water. Emergency medical service personnel arrived, gave Young first aid and transported the prisoner to a local hospital. Young was also hospitalized after reporting chest pains but has been released.

The prisoner was being escorted to a transportation van to take to jail because of center rule violations when he broke away from Young and an agent and ran to the river two blocks away where he jumped in. He was handcuffed at the time. Young followed and dove in to retrieve him.

DNA testing results in capture of murder suspect

The MDOC took a DNA sample from a prisoner before he left on parole and when the State Police checked it against a national data base they found that he was a suspect in a 1994 murder in Texas. He subsequently confessed to the rape/murder of a woman there.

He has been returned to custody and was transported back to Texas last week.

The case is an example of the value of DNA testing of offenders, said Director William S. Overton.

The department has been taking DNA samples of all offenders as they leave prison on parole or discharge since Jan. 1 of this year. Beginning in November, 2002, the department will take DNA samples of all prisoners during the annual health care screening.

Educator, corrections expert to head prison schools

Julie L. DeRose, a corrections professional and former adult education teacher, has been selected to manage the state prison school system.

A total of about 12,000 prisoners are enrolled in academic or vocational education programs at most of the 42 state prisons and 10 minimum-security camps.

DeRose, who has been employed with the MDOC in various capacities since 1987, has a master's degree from Western Michigan University and a bachelor's degree from Ferris State University.

Her appointment was announced by officials in the department's Correctional Facilities Administration.

Most recently, DeRose has been a marketing specialist in Michigan State Industries, the division operating the department's prison industries program. She also has been a special services administrator in charge of offices that provided prisoner services, recruited employees, accredited institutions and managed gangs and security-threat groups. She was assistant to the Administrator of the Office of Audit, Internal Affairs and Litigation.

DeRose began with the department as an office and business education instructor at the Deerfield Correctional Facility in Ionia. She also was school principal at the Standish Correctional Facility and the Thumb Correctional Facility in Lapeer.

She held the job of assistant deputy warden at the Carson City Correctional Facility.

The prison system's education program includes adult basic education, preparation for GED testing, special education and vocational classes.

The department stresses GED completion and requires all capable prisoners to earn a GED before parole.

DeRose will help manage annual resources totaling about \$40 million which support about 350 teachers and other educational staff.



Julie DeRose

Training, excellence slogan kicks in for agent

A field agent from Shiawassee County was headed to an interview for a supervisor's position recently when he saw a car accident.

"All my first aid training and the slogan 'committed to excellence every day' kicked," said Lyman Martin, in relaying information about his actions.

A car ran a stop sign and ran into a dump truck which Martin was behind at an intersection. The driver of the car was injured.

With the help of another driver who stopped, Martin checked over the drivers in both vehicles, helped secure the scene and kept traffic moving until emergency vehicles could arrive.

Parole Board chair named to head Internal Affairs Section

Stephen Marschke, who has been chairperson of the Michigan Parole Board since 1996, has been selected to fill the post of manager of the Internal Affairs Section. He succeeds Jack Hall, who is retiring on Oct. 31.

Marschke's selection was announced by Jeffrey L. Baumann who is administrator of the Office of Audit, Internal Affairs and Litigation.

The Internal Affairs section was created in 1992 to investigate allegations of serious employee misconduct and to emphasize the department's commitment to policing its own staff.

First appointed to the Parole Board in 1992, Marschke is a former Berrien County sheriff and has worked in law enforcement since 1977.

Before his stint as sheriff, Marschke was a detective sergeant, patrol sergeant and commander of the Metro Narcotics Unit in Berrien County.

He holds a bachelor's degree from Indiana and a master's degree from Michigan State University.



Stephen Marschke

Huron Valley officer's quick actions save new construction

Todd Goodrich, a perimeter officer at the Huron Valley Correctional Facility, recently put out a fire in construction equipment near the building site of the state's new forensic center.

The \$90 million building will replace the existing facility, which is on the grounds of the former Ypsilanti State Hospital. The center provides both diagnostic services to the criminal justice system and psychiatric treatment for criminal defendants adjudicated incompetent to stand trial and/or acquitted by reason of insanity.

Goodrich noticed the fire while he was making his rounds and went to the site. There, he found a front-end loader on fire and attempted to put it out with the fire extinguisher he carries on the perimeter road vehicle.

Able to contain the fire, Goodrich alerted prison staff members who called the local fire department and stayed at the site until fire fighters arrived and extinguished it.

Prison officials said his actions may have saved the construction site.



A Saginaw probation blood drive

Staff from the Saginaw County Probation Office sponsored a blood drive and 15 donated. Laurie Slomkowski organized the drive which included a chance to win t-shirts donated by the Saginaw Valley Blood Program. At right, Danelle Shemanski and Brian Toma roll up their sleeves for a good cause.



Smith retirement party planned

A retirement party for Warden David Smith of the Ryan Correctional Facility will be held Nov. 30 at the Ypsilanti Marriott's Eagle Crest Conference Resort.

The event, which begins at 7 p.m., costs \$35 a person which includes dinner and a contribution to a gift.

For more information contact Joanne Sockwell at (313) 368-3200, ext. 1115, or send a check made out to Joanne Sockwell to her in care of David Smith Retirement, P.O. Box 4054, Centerline, MI 48015-4054 by Oct. 3.

Staff earn valor awards for preventing prisoner from harming self

A sergeant and an officer at the Westshoreline Correctional Facility stopped a prisoner who was trying to remove his eye and earned department Valor Awards.

The prisoner, in a segregation shower stall, was seen digging into his left eye socket in an apparent effort to remove his eye. Officer Wade Wakefield ordered him to stop and when he didn't, reached in and grabbed his arm. The prisoner resisted and tried to claw and scratch whoever came close. Sgt. Lola Murray was also on the scene and held onto the prisoner through the shower slot to prevent him from hurting himself and from injuring other staff.

Prison officials said both Wakefield and Murray acted without regard to their own personal safety to handle the difficult situation.

The prisoner was successfully removed from the shower and taken to health care for an evaluation.

Volunteer recruiters meet in Lansing

Volunteer recruiters from across the state met in Lansing recently to get re-energized to begin the job of recruiting new employees for the MDOC.

The department's first new class of corrections officers in about a year started last month, and additional classes are expected to begin as the department prepares to fill vacancies and to hire new employees who will staff new prison expansion.

The department's Recruitment Section has 65 MDOC employees who help it bring new employees to the department. They are loaned to the section by supervisors.

Leading the agenda at the recent meeting held at the DeMarse Academy was Maria Guizar, recruitment coordinator. She provided tips and explained how the hiring process works. Other speakers were Bill Hudson, administrator of the Office of Training and Recruitment; recruiters La Chelle Fuller and Mike Morrison; Latricia Perry of the Department of Civil Service; and Kent Austin



Recruiters view a live videoconference on recruitment presented by NIC.

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Genesee Nighthawk agents nab 17

Teams of agents from Genesee County working with local law enforcement officers conducted a warrant sweep recently and found 17 of the 42 probation absconders they were seeking.

Supervisor Celeste Wright said the Nighthawk teams also confiscated two long guns, a shotgun and a rifle.

Meanwhile, agents in-house used the OMNI system to confirm and identify probationers, as needed.

"The entire operation was a success, and staff members are to be commended for prioritizing their workloads and organizing the effort. We were able to apprehend some of the absconders but, more importantly, the issue of due diligence was addressed and staff felt good about their work for the department and what they were doing for the public," Wright said.

Videoconference technology makes special training possible

The Macomb Correctional Facility has initiated a pilot project that allows prisoners to take vocational training classes offered through Macomb Community College via videoconferencing.

The distance learning project is being paid for with a grant from the Hudson-Webber Foundation and was initiated by U.S. District Court Judge John Feikens.

Coordinating the three-year project for the department is Lynette Holloway who is in charge of the videoconferencing committee which designed the department's plan for video communications expansion (see related story in this issue.)

At the prison, the program is under the supervision of Deputy Warden Hugh Wolfenbarger.

The 12-week classes, designed for prisoners nearing parole, are provided in A+ Computer Troubleshooting and Repair

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Among those attending the first videoconferencing class offered to select prisoners at Macomb Correctional Facility were, from left, Federal Judge John Feikens, Director William S. Overton, Administrative Assistant Heidi Washington, Warden Jimmy Stegal, Regional Administrator Denise Quarles, David Egner of the Hudson-Webber Foundation and Detroit News Editorial Writer Bill Johnson.

Recruit: volunteers get tips for new push

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of the department's Equal Employment Opportunity Office.

Curriculum Specialist John Cordell showed a Power Point presentation he had developed on the various prisons.

Attendees also participated in a live, three-hour satellite/internet videoconference as part of their session.

The conference – A Collaborative Approach to Staff Recruitment and Retention — was sponsored by the National Institute of Corrections.

A 'special' barbecue

Staff at Grandview Plaza in Lansing held a barbecue to raise money for Special Olympics. Organizers from left: Norma Killough, Scott Schooley, Joe Barrett, Chris Crysler and Shannon Bloodworth.

**MDOC employees give all for Special Olympics 2002**

Staff of the Michigan Department of Corrections, including the 2002 Travel Team, joined other law enforcement personnel earlier this month in the 2002 Law Enforcement Torch Run to collect money for Special Olympics Michigan.

At Grandview Plaza members of the department's travel team, six runners from locations throughout the state, joined with department staff at the Lansing office to run/walk to Potter Park.

At Potter Park the runners were greeted by members of the Special Olympics Michigan office and several Special Olympians for refreshments.

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Classes: videoconferencing pilot underway at Macomb

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and Life Skills. Prisoners at Macomb are taught through an interactive video connection between the prison and the community college.

The computer repair class can lead to certification that can be used toward an associate's degree. The Life Skills class covers such topics as budget and resume preparation; improving employability and parenting skills; and issues of family relationships, health and nutrition.

Wayne State University has been contracted to follow participants during the next three years to see if the program reduces recidivism.

The department is hoping to expand the program to Camp Brighton so that qualified female prisoners can also take part.

Special: Employees make it banner year

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Throughout the state, employees from Corrections worksites from the western end of the Upper Peninsula to the southern tip of the Lower Peninsula were running with law enforcement personnel to Sterling Heights, where closing ceremonies were held.

At Baraga, for example, runners from the prison along with officers from the Keweenaw Bay Tribal Police, the Michigan State Police and the Baraga County Sheriff's Department raised more than \$4,000 at the run along U.S. 41 for 3.3 miles ending in a reception at the American Legion Post.

To raise money for Special Olympics at the Oaks Correctional Facility, employees hosted a barbecue and raised more than \$1,400. Those organizing the event, which featured a dunk tank, were Janet McNees, Barry Panzer, Danna Abrahamson and Patricia Gibson. Warden Dave Gundy, Deputy Warden Timothy Luoma, Capt. Laura Bowers-Shockley and other administrative staff volunteered for the dunk tank.



A dunking

Captain Laura Bowers-Shockley prepares to be dunked by Officer Eric Smith at the Oaks Correctional



News makers

From left, Steve Ostrovitch, Shawn Young, Vicki Siegrist and Steve Siegrist.

In Lansing, employees held a barbecue at which they raised more than \$500. In total, they raised \$4,716 through a t-shirt sale, a raffle, the barbecue, the Torch Run and a golf outing.

In Marquette, about 70 participants ran in the torch run including staff from Marquette Branch Prison. The effort was locally coordinated by Renea Hoerner, administrative assistant at Marquette, Cheryl Jacobson of the Marquette County Sheriff's Department and Mary Grace Olson of the Michigan State Police.

The five mile run started at the Holiday Inn where local runners joined the Central Run Team, who had

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Special: staff across the state raise \$ for state kids

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started out in Calumet, and finished at the Marquette Branch Prison where they had a breakfast to celebrate the finish. The breakfast was coordinated by prison employee John Geueke, RN, who used donations made by local merchants and Marquette Branch Prison Food Service.

Prison staff raised more than \$2,000 to present to Special Olympics Michigan.



Staff members from the three St. Louis prisons who took part in the 2002 Torch Run.

The 13th Law Enforcement Torch Run for Gratiot County Law Enforcement was a great success with all three facilities having employees participate.

Employees from the prisons in Gratiot County — St. Louis, Mid-Michigan and Pine River correctional facilities — joined the local Law Enforcement Agencies for a 5.3 mile run/walk on Sept 11th.

Cookouts, raffles, casual days and t-shirt sales helped make this year's event such a success. The combined efforts raised more than \$13,300 for this year's event.

A major golf outing sponsored by Pine River (SPR) is still planned for Oct. 4.

Staff from the Muskegon, Earnest C. Brooks and West Shoreline correctional facilities were joined by the



They made it happen

Kneeling in front is Tricia Schafer (MTF) Muskegon area captain. Standing from left: Angela Hall (MTF) and Mary Battaglia (MCF) facility coordinators.

MDOC travel team and the statewide travel team for the Muskegon leg of the torch run. A total of more than \$6,000 was raised by staff. Organizing the run this year was Tricia Schafer of West Shoreline assisted by Mary Battaglia from Muskegon and Angela Hall from West Shoreline.



Some runners from Jackson area prisons.

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West Shoreline employees donate more than \$8,000 to fight cancer

A plaque recognizing donations totaling more than \$8,000 to fight cancer was given to the West Shoreline Correctional Facility by officials of the Sandy Corely Memorial Motorcycle Run.

The three-day event is held annually to support the Hackley Cancer Center. Funds totaling \$71,000 went to the Center.

West Shoreline has been involved with the motorcycle run for about 12 years as a

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Special: Employees step up for Special Olympics

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Employees from all the Jackson facilities took part in the Torch Run through a 16-mile bike ride, a 3.2 mile walk or a 3.2 mile run. The route was through downtown Jackson to the Lyle A. Torrant Center on Parnall Road. The facilities raised more than \$3,500 so far this year.

Travel team members were: Vicki Siegrist, from the Michigan Parole Board; Shawn Young from the Riverside Correctional Facility; Steven Siegrist retired from Field Operations Administration; Maggie Young from Riverside Correctional Facility, Steven Ostrovich from Western Wayne Correctional Facility; David Katz from Region I of Field Operations Administration.

Members ran with local teams in Ironwood, Iron River, Baraga, Iron Mountain, Sault Ste. Marie, West Branch, Saginaw, Muskegon, Mt. Pleasant, Lansing, Plymouth and Sterling Heights.

In the past five years, the Law Enforcement Torch Run has raised more than \$1.8 million for the Special Olympics. Of that amount, Corrections employees have raised about \$600,000.



Sparty friends

Some members of the Travel Team cavort with Sparty (the MSU mascot) at the Torch Run kickoff in East Lansing.

Long-term Knop v Johnson case finally ended

U.S. District Court Judge Richard Enslen recently signed an order ending one of the department's longest-running major lawsuits on prison conditions. The final portion of the *Knop v Johnson* case, originally filed in 1984, has now been resolved leaving only *Hadix v Johnson* as the final pending consent decree case.

After years of legal combat, resulting in parts of Knop being dismissed, the final issue in the case involved prisoner's legal access to courts, specifically, issues relating to the department's handling of prisoner's legal mail. The case was almost resolved last year, when the department, due to events involving suspicious materials being sent through the mail, changed its policy to require that all prison mail be opened and inspected in one location at each facility. This meant that legal mail was no longer opened in the prisoner's presence, which became a major stumbling block in resolving the case.

The plaintiffs' attorneys wanted the department to build mail rooms inside the facilities to allow legal mail to be opened in front of the prisoners. The department argued that this wouldn't be the best solution while trying to contain potentially dangerous substances. Judge Enslen agreed with the department, indicating that he could understand why the MDOC would

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West Shoreline: employees ride to fight cancer

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sponsor. Many of its employees take part.

Chairperson has been Paul Warner, an information technology program analyst at the prison. Officials said that under his direction, attendance at the event, which includes the motorcycle run, field events, bike shows, bands, camping and fireworks, has increased from a few hundred to several thousand.

The prison also held several fund raisers from which the proceeds went to the run. Those included the sale of patriotic pictures, employee car washes, hot dog sales and dress-down Fridays.

The most recent memorial fund raiser involved Sgt. Ric Siegel who allowed Deputy Warden Rick Smith to cut his beard by eight inches during a pre-shift meeting. The beard was donated at the rate of \$1,000 per inch. Facility employees came up with nearly \$6,000 for the trim.

The Sandy Corely Run is held at Val Du Lakes in Silver Lake, in memory of Sandy Corely who owned Sandy's Harley Davidson Sport Shop in Fremont. He died in 1989 after a long battle with cancer.

West Shoreline staff members have also contributed more than \$14,000 to the Cancer Run through the United Way Campaign.



Staff celebrate diversity with potluck at Bellamy Creek



The Diversity Team at Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility sponsored a Latin/Latino potluck recently to foster support for diversity and to raise funds for the Cancer Relay for Life. From left, Warden Ken McKee, Terri Jones, Hershel Gibson, Terry Harvey and Cindy Marshall. Harvey, who is chair of the diversity team, said staff are making an effort to work as a team and join together as one IBC family. "Warden McKee is an integral part of the team building and has encouraged activities that celebrate diversity and promote communications," she said. The team is made up of workers from several institutions including the Michigan Reformatory and the Southern Michigan Correctional Facility.

Knop: judge terminates 18-year-old case

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want to take precautions. The department conceded that it would open and inspect, however not read or skim prisoner legal mail.

Over the past several months, the department's consent decree coordinator, the plaintiffs' attorneys as well as a court-appointed independent monitor have reviewed prisoner grievances involving legal mail, institution operating procedures and legal mail logs and have observed the opening of prisoner legal mail by facility staff. All were satisfied with the results, prompting Judge Enslen to sign the order terminating the case originally filed by the ACLU.

Consent Decree Coordinator Barbara Hladki said the department spent approximately \$12,000 in attorney fees just over the past six months on the Knop case.

Hladki stated, "The closure of this case will obviously save the department money, however more importantly, it allows us to make management decisions based on our needs and sound correctional principals without judicial scrutiny. In addition, it removes the requirement for special processes at only the Knop institutions."

Jeff Baumann, administrator of the Office of Audit, Internal Affairs and Litigation, said of the closure, "Through the continued efforts and dedication of Director Overton, as well as our previous two directors, we have continued to chip away at the consent decree cases that have hampered the department. The order was excellent news!"

Baraga officers receive valor award

Two officers at the Baraga Maximum Correctional Facility were given department valor awards for their actions in coming to the aid of an officer who was being assaulted by a prisoner.

Matthew Morgan, an employee at the prison since 1993, was first on the scene when Officer John Gagnon was being repeatedly struck in the head with a combination lock tied to a long length of material. Morgan jumped in to protect Gagnon from the blows and was hit and injured enough to require medical attention.

Bernard Lawry, responding to the radio transmission that staff needed help, ran to the scene, gained control of the prisoner and held him to the ground, thus stopping the assault. Lawry was also injured in the incident. He has been employed at Baraga since 1999.

Warden George Pennell said the actions of the officers "were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Michigan Department of Corrections. They put themselves at personal risk to protect fellow officers."

Morgan returned to work soon after the incident. Lawry will be returning to work by the end of the month on light duty. Gagnon is still off and does not have an expected date of return.



From left back row: Assistant Deputy Director Richard Johnson, Director William S. Overton, Warden George Pennell and Charlotte Morgan (Matthew's wife). Seated from left: Bernard Lawry and Matthew Morgan.

SAI Corporal's actions earn lifesaving award

Todd James, a corporal at the Special Alternative Incarceration (SAI) program at Cassidy Lake, has earned a department Lifesaving Award for coming to the aid of a trainee who was choking.

James saw the trainee, who was eating carrots at the evening meal, appear to stop breathing and turn purple and went to his assistance. Using the Heimlich Maneuver, James dislodged the carrot allowing the trainee to breath.

SAI Administrator Gene Borgert said Jame's actions saved the trainee's life.